

Fall 2008

Call 435-260-9646
for more information

GRAND AREA MENTORING COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

“Children have more need of models than of critics.” –Joseph Joubert

Grand County School District



IN A WORD, mentoring means...

When asked to quickly reply to the trigger word *MENTORING*, over 60% of our mentored students respond with the word *FUN*. Enjoyment, while worthwhile in itself, is not the only goal Grand County School District seeks to accomplish by supplying students with volunteer mentors. The district is specifically hunting for better grades, fewer drop outs, and a smaller number of discipline problems.

All the same, this word association exercise opens a tiny window into our students' subconscious, revealing that *fun* is indeed the connection that students make with mentoring.

Mentors and students spend the majority of their hour each week pursuing enjoyable activities such as puzzles, games, sports, and crafts. Therefore, it makes perfect sense that students link mentoring with gratification; it's easy to make that association.

For mentored students, fun encourages more than simple pleasure. Our students' attachment to school is strongly influenced by mentoring relationships.

An effective mentor offers students respect, care, and praise in a one-on-one setting during the school day. This personal investment perfectly complements the rigors of the academic world, highlighting school as a place of growth *and* encouragement. As confirmed by GrandAM data, when a student has a better time at school, he or she naturally earns better grades, avoids dropping out, and has fewer discipline problems. Grand County School District is accomplishing its goals through the intuitive power of positive, one-on-one relationships.

The most common responses when presented with the word *MENTOR*...

[Continued on back page.]

SPONSOR A MATCH:

Want to be a MENTOR but don't have the TIME?

Community members, corporations, public service groups, or associations can make a donation to GrandAM that will support a specific match. Donations will be acknowledged with a match bio, including favorite activities, grade level (student) and occupation (mentor), and a personalized note explaining what the donor's sponsorship means. When available, a photo of the match at a weekly meeting will be included.

Mail checks payable to Grand Area Mentoring at: Grand Area Mentoring, 264 South 400 East, Moab, UT 84532.

- \$49 Level: The Giver**
supplies and equipment for 1 year
- \$149 Level: The Helper**
supplies, equipment, and match support for 1 year
- \$290 Level: The Benefactor**
supplies, equipment, match support, and program infrastructure for 1 year

Mentoring Sites:

- Red Rock Elementary
- HMK Intermediate
- Community School
- Grand Co. Middle School
- Grand Co. High School

Major Donors:

- George & Dolores Eccles Foundation
- Rocky Mountain Power Foundation
- Grand Co. School District
- Robert Fulghum Family Foundation
- Wells Fargo Foundation
- Footprints, Inc.

Program Highlights:

Matches 2007/2008:

70 students, 68 mentors

Grade Point Average:

Goal: 30% increase

Result: 32% increase

Discipline Referrals:

Goal: 40% reduction

Result: 48% reduction

Relationship Longevity:

Goal: 50% sustained

Result: 49% sustained

Grand Area Mentoring

Address:
Grand County School District
264 South 400 East
Moab, UT 84532

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E-Mail:
grandareamentoring@gmail.com

We're on the Web!

See us at...

www.grandschools.org/mentor

Coordinator: Megan McGee

Program Director: Daniel McNeil

Advisory Committee:

Melinda Snow, Rick Donham,
Jim Lewis, Jeri Hamilton,
Taryn Kay, Margaret Hopkin,
Mary McGann

About GrandAM...

Funded by the generous donations of local citizens and organizations, Grand Area Mentoring now enters its fourth year of service to Grand County.

Mentors aged 24 through 83 years meet with students in one-on-one settings to encourage growth and bolster self-confidence. Their weekly hour-long sessions sometimes include board games, basketball, and computers. Other matches pursue crafts, reading, and talking about school. Mentors and students seek activities that are mutually enjoyable and enriching.

Grand Area Mentoring continuously strives to create lasting and fruitful relationships. New volunteers are trained in mentoring best practices and always supported with regular staff contact. Volunteers simply give one hour per week and receive the satisfaction of positively impacting a life forever.

Call 260-9646 for more information.

GrandAM Highlight: The Mightiest Match

Three years is a long time. That's exactly how long Wendy McDougald and Justin Adams have been meeting as mentor and mentee. They are GrandAM's leading match, with over ninety hours of mentoring time logged.



"Wendy is one of my favorite people," Justin said. "She listens to what I have to say and is always there when I need her."

Echoing Justin's thoughts, Wendy explained,

"mentoring is about assisting in a young person's growth. It's about being there when they need your support." As a mentor she has had the opportunity to watch Justin grow and "develop a stronger sense of self" as he has matured.

Now as they embark on their fourth year of meetings,

Wendy and Justin are poised to extend their mentoring relationship, something that Justin declares, "one of the best things a kid could possibly get."

In a Word (Continued Story)

...were *HAPPY* and *NICE*.

The two words stand as hallmarks of effective mentoring. These are the kinds of people that Grand County School District supplies to our children as positive role models. These are the ordinary citizens that recognize the importance of mentors in their own lives and have chosen to pass on the legacy of guidance.

Children learn from all that we adults do in this world. It is a fine achievement for society

when children become more productive and young minds build positive associations with school and learning.

But even better is the moment when these children take the words *FUN*, *HAPPY*, and *NICE* into the future as beacons for others. We can judge our society successful when each child can say, "I had a mentor, and I will pass it on."

Be a mentor.

Who needs a cape



when everything

you do already says... Hero?

